



Small Group Curriculum • Genesis 1 • Foundations

FOUNDATIONS PART 1 • WEEK 1 • Genesis 1:1

What are you building your life on? In Silicon Valley, where innovation shapes everything and the pressure to perform never lets up, questions about identity and purpose weigh heavier than ever. The pace is relentless, the stakes feel impossibly high, and yet, beneath the surface, so many of us are quietly asking: *Is this really it?*

Genesis takes us back to the very beginning—the foundation of everything. It's not just the story of creation—it's the story of us. *Who are you? Why are you here? What's the point of all this? Is there something bigger for your life?* These are the questions that keep us up at night, and Genesis holds the answers.

This series is an invitation to discover the foundation God designed for the universe—and for you. A foundation strong enough to bring clarity to confusion, peace to chaos, and meaning to your everyday life.

REMINDERS

Awakening News:

- Is anyone in your group ready to become an official member of Awakening Church? Encourage them to join Awakening 201 this March [here](#).
- Is there anyone in your life who is spiritually seeking and ready for an invite to Alpha? More information [here](#).
- Have you joined our giving community, resourcing God's unique mission through Awakening. Explore ways to give at awakeningchurch.com/give.

Past Session Check-In:

- Take a moment and review the application from your last discussion. Ask the group where they were challenged, if they made any commitment for change and/or action, and if they followed through with their decision.

ICEBREAKER

OPTION #1

- Do you remember something that you made as a kid that you were proud of? (i.e. tree house, school assignment, art project). What was it and why were you so pleased with your creation?

OPTION #2

- Pass out playdough asking everyone to model an object and show it to the group. Next, take a minute to reshape it into something else. ("If you make something you own it and can do what you want with it.")

AWAKENING

Transition: Just like our creations, God is the maker of everything, and therefore he owns it all and is in charge of it all.

INTRODUCTION

These are the beginning themes that we will discuss as our church starts a series through the book of Genesis. Before we discuss today's verse, let's take a moment and share our thoughts on approaching this foundational book of the Bible.

QUESTIONS:

- What is your level of excitement discussing the book of Genesis and why?
- What key questions and topics do you hope we address through this teaching series and our small group discussions?
- Have any of you been joining our [Genesis reading plan](#) for the first 50 days of 2025, reading a chapter a day in Genesis? If so, what has God been teaching you through these readings?

Transition: Genesis 1:1 sets the stage for the Creator and his creation, with the main subject being God himself. It is the key foundation to the scriptures and its profound implications lead us to a crucial question, "So what?"

DISCUSSION

READ: Genesis 1:1—"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen 1:1, NIV)

QUESTIONS

1. Many creation accounts within other religions and ancient stories begin with war, conflict, & gods fighting one another. In what ways in Genesis 1:1 a contrast to these creation accounts?
2. As the world was created through calm, order, peace and speaking, what does this tell us about God?
 - a. BONUS QUESTION: Read Psalm 148:5 and Proverbs 8:22-27. As other passages refer to God creating the universe out of nothing, it stresses the artists freedom and power used solely for God's activity. How does God as "artist" impact you? Are we to be limitless in our creation as God is?
 - i. NOTE: "heaven and earth" is a characteristic for many languages referring to the totality of the cosmos. Another way to translate the meaning of Genesis 1:1 is "In the beginning God created everything."
3. What does the phrase "in the beginning" say about God's nature and relationship with time? (*God is eternal. When there was nothing else, there was God. He is uncreated and he was before all things.*)
 - a. BONUS QUESTION: Literature critic Edward Said states that "*beginnings* are secular, humanly produced and ceaselessly re-examined," yet "*origins* are divine, mythical and privileged." Why is the word "*origin*" more appropriate and accurate to the creation account? (NOTE: "Beginning" in the Hebrew is an abstract noun related to "head" or "first," and linked to the word "bless," revealing a [sacred purpose](#) to this *origin* narrative.)

AWAKENING

4. If Genesis 1:1 shows us that God is *eternal*, what does it then tell us about his creation? (*Creation is finite and temporal*)
5. Knowing that God is *eternal* and creation is *finite and temporal*, how should this adjust our posture and perspective towards our world and who God is? How does this viewpoint counter much of our culture's view of creation and their position within it?
6. As God has always *perfectly existed*, it tells us that the formation of the universe is *not necessary*. He didn't create it because he had to in order to "be God" or to be fulfilled. How does this truth impact you?
7. As theologians refer to this truth as a "gratuity of the universe" or "scandalous gratuity" how do you see this reiterated by Paul from his words in Acts 17:24-25 when assembled at Areopagus.
 - a. ²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:24-25, NIV)
8. Theologian Christopher Watkin writes, "Neither we nor the universe are necessary. We may be important, precious, glorious even, but previously and gloriously unnecessary." How would the world be different if we understood that we encounter grace not first in *redemption* through the cross but first at *creation*? (*To view ourselves first as recipients and careful to assume we bought or made it ourselves.*)

RESPONSE

1. How do you view what you have in this life; your job, possessions, relationships, etc.? As something you created and worked for or something that was given or blessed to you? How does this position affect your day to day living?
2. Knowing God has always owned all of our *treasure, time, and talents*, how should this alter our perspective and posture of these things? What would this outlook practically look like this week in how you stewarded your possessions, time, and relationships?
3. As Genesis 1:1 displays God's generous nature, freely giving without any obligation or expectation of anything in return, what does this mean for how we model such generosity? Is there someone in your life that God may be asking you to have scandalous generosity towards? What commitment do you want to make this week in response to this prompting?
 - a. BONUS QUESTION: Knowing God gives freely to those who cannot stand on their own, how should this affect how we treat the poor, weak and aged in our community? Would we be willing as a group to serve at [City Team](#) for a season in light of this calling and opportunity?

Transition: We desire our small groups at Awakening to regularly experience relational connection, biblical study, and also prayer, taking our praise, requests, and confessions to God.

PRAYER

The creation account shows us that we are *receivers* of a priceless gift: life. Therefore, our primary disposition should be that of thanksgiving and praise. Take time just to praise and



thank God for who he is and what he has done in our world and in our lives specifically.
Worship him with words of gratitude.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR GROUP TO CONSIDER

Check out our outreach page at <https://awakeningchurch.com/outreach/> to explore ways your group can volunteer at our biweekly food pantry, support Foster the City, or join the City Team movement.